

CHAMPIONS CLUB

Speaking of Champions ...

April-June 2006

Volume 6, Issue 2



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Champions Club: Spring Highlights

- **April 21-22:** Champions High School Classic
- **May 3-5:** Tennessee Senior Games
- **May 19-21:** Junior Novice Grand Prix tourney
- **June 5:** Champions summer leagues begin

Welcome, Spring!

Let's give credit where credit is due!

Mother Nature was exceptionally kind to Chattanooga, the game of tennis and the Champions Club this past winter. It definitely wasn't a cold, cruel season.

But ...

Welcome, spring!

Once again, the Champions Club "springs" into action with the change of the season, starting with the first of six week-ends for the USA Adult League local play.

Not only do the popular Champions Club leagues crank up in high gear, but the club also

hosts the 24-team Champions High School Classic in late April and the Tennessee Senior Games in early May. Also, the

Hamilton County middle schools and the Independent middle schools will hold season-ending events and the first of two Junior Novice Grand Prix tournaments will round out the month.

And then comes summer ... hotter days, sunnier skies, humbling



Sunny skies and warmer temperatures don't necessarily mean peace and relaxation for everyone — ask Champions Club groundskeeper Wayne Burnett

humidity.

So let's all enjoy the change of season.

Welcome, spring!

Champions Club: 2006 Schedule

- February 24-26 – GPS Jr. Winter Open (Champions one of the sites)
- February 25 – UTC men, women vs. Elon University, noon
- February 26 – UTC men, women vs. Lipscomb University, 3 p.m.
- February 27 – Junior Spring Clinics begin
- March 1 – UTC men, women vs. Alabama A&M, 3 p.m.
- March 3-5 – Baylor Jr. Spring Championships (Champions one of the sites)
- March 4-12 – Champions NTRP Tournament
- March 9 – Campbell University men, women vs. Mercer University, 1 p.m.
- March 25-26 – Southern Campus Championships
- March 27 – Champions Spring Leagues begin
- March 31 – UTC men, women vs. Gardner-Webb, 2:30 p.m.
- April 1-2 – USA Adult League (local play)
- April 8-9 – USA Adult League (local play)
- April 14 – UTC men, women vs. Jacksonville State, 3 p.m.
- April 21-22 – Champions High School Tournament
- April 29-30 – USA Adult League (local play)
- May 3-5 – Tennessee Senior Games
- May 6-7 – USA Adult League (local play)
- May 8-9 – TSSAA District 6-AAA Tournament (tentative)
- May 8-9 – TSSAA District 6-A/AA Tournament (tentative)
- May 10-12 – Independent Middle School Tournament
- May 13-14 – USA Adult League (local play)
- May 15-16 – Champions/Hamilton County Middle School Tournament
- May 19-21 – Champions Junior Novice Grand Prix I
- June 3-4 – USA Adult League (local play)
- June 5 – Champions Summer Leagues begin (tentative)
- June 13-15 – Champions Junior Summer Camp I
- June 27-29 – Champions Junior Summer Camp II
- July 1-5 – USTA National Open 12s Boys & Girls Championships
- July 6-9 – Choo Choo Wheelchair Tournament
- July 11-13 – Champions Junior Summer Camp III
- July 29-August 3 – Tennessee Junior State Closed Championships
- August 25-27 – Champions Junior Novice Grand Prix II
- September 5 – Champions Junior Fall Clinics begin'
- September 8-10 – STA Junior Davis Cup (12s) Championships
- September 11 – Champions Fall Leagues begin (tentative)
- September 15-17 – STA Junior Davis Cup (14s, 16s, 18s) Championships
- September 22-24 – UTC/Steve Baras Collegiate Fall Classic
- October 21-23 – John Strang/McCallie Junior Tournament
- November 3-5 – Tennessee State Combo Adult Doubles

STA Southern Campus Play Just 'Peachy'

Although the weather was cool for late March, the conditions at the Champions Club appeared to be just "peachy" for the University of Georgia.

Georgia edged past Peach State rival Georgia Tech, 28-27, in the title match of the 2006 USTA Team Tennis Southern Campus Championships, an event for collegiate club teams now in its second year.

Furman stopped Clemson, 30-28, in the third-place playoff match and UT-Chattanooga (coached by Chattanooga Brad Bolton) finished a respectable eighth in the 19-school field.

"Everything went beautifully," says Jeff Smith, School & Collegiate Tennis Coordinator for the USTA Southern Section. "We just about tripled the number of teams from 2005 (held at the Racquet Club of the South in Atlanta). "We'd certainly like to come back (to Champions) — that is our indication."

In the 2005 event, seven teams from six schools competed.

Georgia and Georgia Tech earn berths to the Nationals, set April 20-22 at the University of Texas at Austin.



Southern Campus Final Standings

- 1-Georgia
- 2-Georgia Tech
- 3-Furman 'A'
- 4-Clemson
- 5-North Carolina
- 6-Vanderbilt
- 7-Col. of Charleston
- 8-UT-Chattanooga
- 9-Ga. Southern 'A'
- 10-UNC-Wilm. 'A'
- 11-ETSU
- 12-UNC-Charlotte
- 13-Emory
- 14-UNC-Wilm. 'B'
- 15-UNC-Greensboro
- 16-MTSU
- 17-Ga. Southern 'B'
- 18-Furman 'B'
- 19-Alabama

RODRIGUEZ, MARINELLO JR. PLAYERS OF THE MONTH

Marcello Rodriguez

Age/Birthday/Zodiac Sign: 13/
October 4/Libra

School/Grade: St. Jude/8th

Favorite Subject: History

Favorite Restaurant/Food: Burger
King/ Chicken sandwich

Favorite Movie: Scary Movie 3

Favorite Type of Music/Favorite Music Artist: Hip hop/Red Hot Chili Peppers

Hobbies Outside Of Tennis: Badminton

Who Introduced You To Tennis? Chip Jabaley (friend & St. Jude teammate)

Began Playing Tennis: One year ago

Favorite Shot: Topspin & overhead smash

Favorite Pro Players: Roger Federer (male), Serena Williams (female)

Tennis Racquet You Use: Wilson Titanium

Best Tennis Memory/Highlight: "It was in a singles match when I hit a topspin shot that won me the match."

Becky Guidi (St. Jude coach) on Marcello: "Marcello is very competitive and strives to do better, which will eventually make him an excellent player."



Marcello Rodriguez

Alaina Marinello

Age/Birthday/Zodiac Sign: 13/May
3/Taurus

School/Grade: St. Jude/8th

Favorite Subject: History

Favorite Restaurant/Food: Chili's/
Chocolate Molten cake

Favorite Movie: Pretty In Pink

Favorite Type of Music/Favorite Musical Artist: Indie/Death Cab For Cutie

Hobbies Outside Of Tennis: Telephone, soccer & friends

Who Introduced You To Tennis? My brother (Chris) and Becky and Samantha Guidi

Began Playing Tennis: Two years ago

Favorite Shot: Forehand

Favorite Pro Players: Andy Roddick (male), Venus & Serena Williams (females)

Tennis Racquet You Use: Prince Hornet

Best Tennis Memory/Highlight: "It's just when I'm hanging out with my friends in the locker rooms."

Becky Guidi (St. Jude coach) on Alaina: "Although Alaina started playing tennis three years ago, I can really see a major improvement this year in her tennis. If she continues her dedication, she'll be able to play competitively for years to come."



Alaina Marinello

Lionettes Out To Defend Champions Team Crown

It was nearly one year ago when the Red Bank girls tennis team pranced past all competition, then celebrated their 2005 Champions Club High School Classic team title by dancing the night away.

"The girls really came together as a team last year," remembers Red Bank coach Glen Wagner. "They were inspired to play well so they could get to the prom later that evening. There's no prom this year, but the girls are looking forward to defending the title."

The Lionettes totaled 60 points last year (to runner-up Cleveland's 50) in taking the Girls' A title, but lost their top two players. Nevertheless, transfer Erica Shropshire and newcomers Michelle Hawfield and Brittany Brooks join Angela Allen, Heather Hawfield and Brittany Thrasher in the lineup.

The tournament, now in its sixth season, will be

played April 21-22 at Champions.

Participating schools are Red Bank, Rhea County, Soddy-Daisy, McMinn County, Walker Valley, St. Andrews-Sewanee, Ooltewah, Cleveland, Chattanooga Christian, University School-Nashville (boys), Lookout Valley (boys), Grace Academy (boys), Murfreesboro Blackman (girls), Murfreesboro Siegel (girls) and Bradley Central (girls).

Besides Red Bank in Girls A, the defending champions are Siegel (Boys A ... not returning), Rhea County (Boys B) and Bradley Central (Girls B). Eight teams

will compete in the A division playoffs, while four schools collide in round-robin B division formats.



The Red Bank Lionettes have high hopes to defend their Champions Club High School Tournament Girls' A Division title. Pictured, left to right, are Brittany Brooks, Erica Shropshire, Heather Hawfield & Michelle Hawfield.

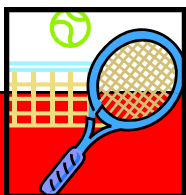
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A Champions Tip ...

From Sara Black

Local Private Tennis Instructor



Tennis: The Game For A Lifetime



Because I grew up living at the tennis courts in Jacksonville, Fla., I have long been a promoter of junior tennis. In Florida, our junior tennis camps had waiting lists, and not a day went by when some form of junior match play was not on display. You see, tennis is the PERFECT sport for every girl and boy to learn to play. As proof, please take into consideration the following points:

1. *Tennis is an international sport — it is played in practically every community in every city in the world.*
2. *Tennis allows children to interact in a healthy way with others while promoting their own self-confidence.*
3. *Tennis teaches self-discipline and encourages kids to develop emotional maturity.*
4. *There is very little chance of serious injury in tennis compared to that in football, baseball, or even soccer.*
And here's the clincher ...
5. *Tennis is a game you can play every day for the rest of your life!*

Remember, it is never too early to begin playing. My dad started throwing balls to me when I was four years old. Now my children, ages 5 and 3, beg for just one more chance to "whack it." The most important thing I could say to the juniors out there is "Have fun and enjoy the game!"

Leagues 'Booming'

The numbers couldn't get any better. Or could they?

A record 202 entrants closed out 2005 participating in the Champions Club Fall Leagues, but 2006 looks very promising.

The '06 Spring Leagues, which kicked off during the final week of March, total 191 participants, including a maximum 24 entrants in Men's 3.5 and Men's 4.0 singles (with waiting lists for both).

In contrast, 144 entrants battled on the Champions courts during the 2005 Spring Leagues.

So the leagues are "booming" at

Champions.

Leagues are available in men's and women's singles 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 and 4.5 (men only), and men's, women's and combo mixed doubles in 6.0-6.5, 7.0-7.5 and 8.0-Plus.

The Summer Leagues are scheduled to begin June 5 with an entry deadline of May 28. To be included on a mailing list for the summer brochure, contact the Champions Club at 870-3112.



Ten teams battle in the Champions Spring League's Women's 6.0-6.5 doubles division. Two of the tandems, pictured left to right, are Linda Height and Karen Officer-Bell and Susan Pesterfield and Lori Prichard.